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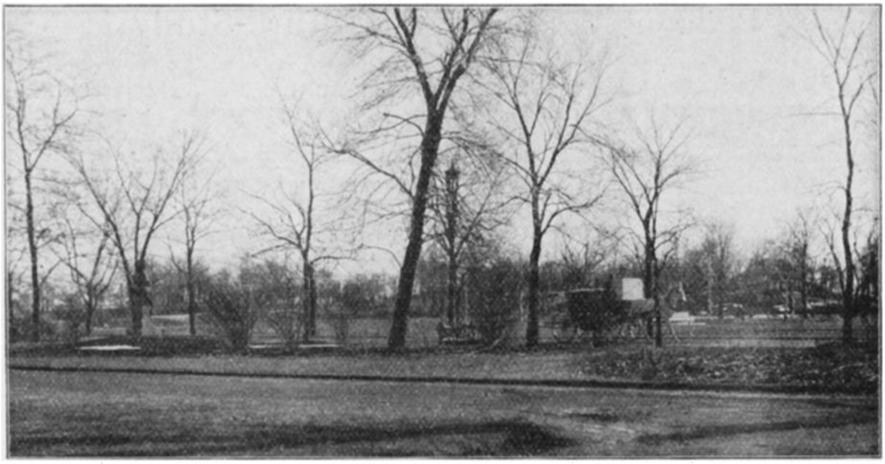
Pedagogic Course in Nature Study

Charles W. Carman

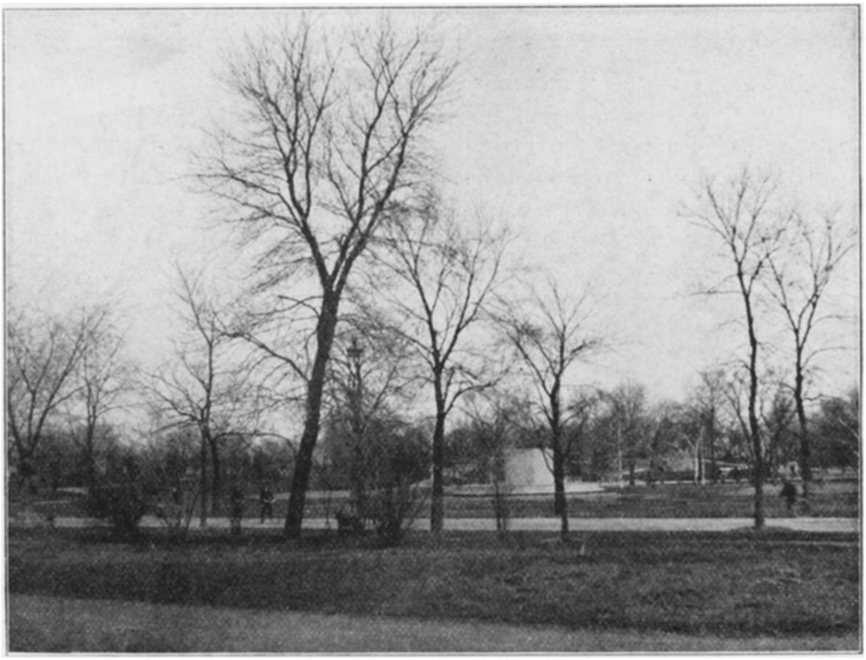
LINCOLN PARK, MARCH 31ST

The nature study classes, at the present time (April 15th), have entered upon but a portion of the work outlined in the April number. Group III was selected to take precedence of the other groups whenever the weather would permit visits to the parks. During the three visits made the general landscape was noted and sketched. The elm is the type of tree selected for special study. Its form and method of branching were noted and sketched. The sketches are to be preserved for comparison with those made after the foliage has begun to develop. The more marked changes noted, during the first two weeks of April, are the disappearance of the snow, the appearance of the birds, and green in the place of the dead brown turf. The swollen condition of the ends of many of the stems has been noted, but no leaves have been developed. Bulbs and seeds have been developed and germinated in water-bottles, and sketches of the changes have been made and preserved. One of the bulbs, since April 1st (fifteen days), has developed a combined length of stem and root exceeding nine inches. Each student is making sketches of the daily changes in a given kind of seed, by planting thirty or more in mold, and removing one each day for the observations.

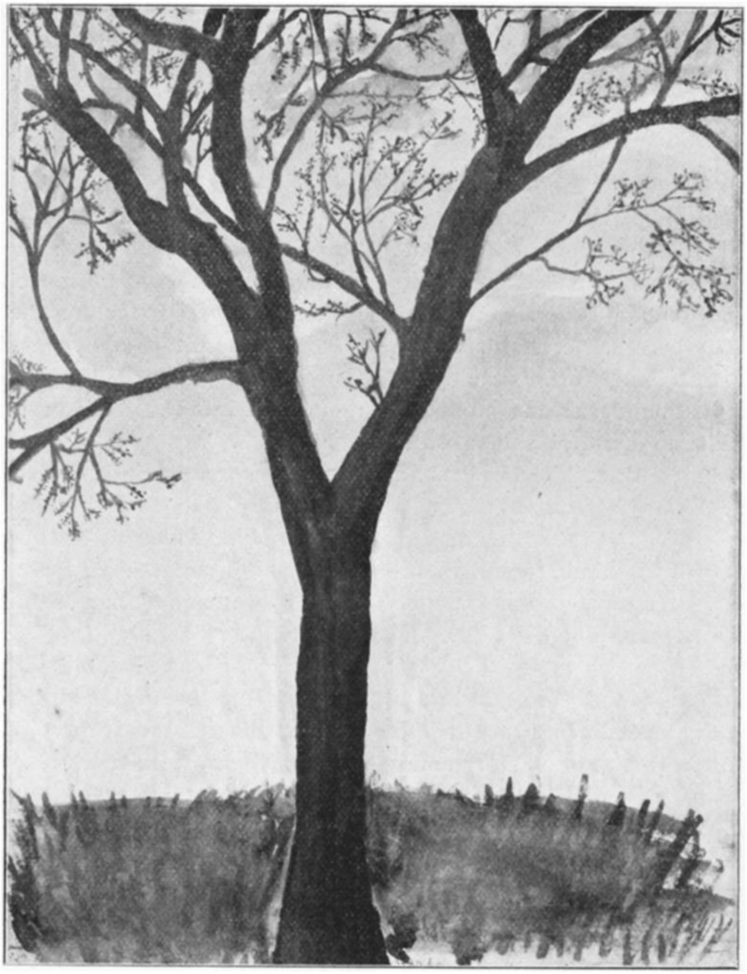
Group I has been studied on days unfavorable for study in the parks. Methods of producing illuminating gas from coal and from calcium carbide were illustrated and discussed in the classroom. An ideal



LINCOLN PARK, APRIL 8TH



LINCOLN PARK, APRIL 15TH



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gas-plant was studied by means of the projection of a section upon the screen. A visit was then made to a large gas-plant, and, aided by the chief chemist and superintendent, the various processes were traced and explained. Reports and discussions were given in the classroom on the following day.

The work during the remainder of April and for May will be a continuation of the outline given in the April number of the COURSE OF STUDY.